

DRAWING AMENDMENTS

In the Drawings:

The drawings were objected to for failing to show every feature of the invention as specified in the claims. Please add a new Drawing Sheet 5, Figure 8. Support for new FIGURE 8 is on page 14 of the Detailed Description. No new (undescribed) matter has been added.

Applicants will provide formal corrected drawings to be entered if the proposed changes are accepted by the Examiner.

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action mailed February 10, 2005. At the time of the Office Action, Claims 1-14 were pending in this Application. Claims 1-6 and 8-14 were rejected. Claim 7 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim.

Objections under 37 CFR 1.83(a)

Examiner has objected to the drawings for not showing every feature of the invention specified in the Claims under 37 CFR 1.83(a). Applicants have submitted a new drawing (FIGURE 8), which illustrates the embodiment described on page 14 and claimed in Claims 10 and 11.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 2, 4, 5, and 9-14 were rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,015,355 issued to Peter Schiessl ("Schiessl").

Applicants respectfully traverse and submit the cited art does not teach all of the elements of the claimed embodiment of the invention. A very important feature of the invention is that the electrodes simulate a one-piece metal, which has both anodic and cathodic areas when exposed to corrosion. Each electrode is similar in structure to the other electrodes. Also, each electrode may operate as either a cathode or an anode when the device is immersed in an electrolyte.

Another feature of the invention is that the electrodes are connected together to a common connection. In the present invention, this connection is through a resistor on the lead connecting each terminal to a common node. The addition of the resistors does not affect the ability of the electrodes to simulate a one-piece metal. The use of the resistors permits a voltmeter to make voltage measurements.

The present invention is a continuation of U.S. Pat. No. 6,683,463, which was issued over the Schiessl patent. Arguments were made in the parent case regarding the fact that the

present invention simulates a one-piece metal. Arguments were also made regarding the use of resistors rather than a zero-resistance ammeter, to connect the electrodes.

These features of the present invention are not present in the invention of Schiessl. In FIGURE 2 of Schiessl, each anode is connected to the same cathode. There is only a single large cathode. The cathode is made from a material different from the anodes. (Col. 6, lines 42-43). The set of anodes cannot simulate a one-piece metal because there are no cathodic areas. The combination of anodes and the cathode cannot simulate a one-piece metal because they do not comprise a set of similar electrodes.

In FIGURE 3 of Schiessl, each anode/cathode pair is separately connected. There is no common connection. A measuring instrument (shown in FIGURE 2 as 7.1, 7.2 etc.) may be placed in parallel to the resistor of each anode/cathode pair. During each measurement by instruments 7.1, 7.2, etc., there is a measurement associated with a single anode/cathode pair and of no other electrodes.

In FIGURE 3 of Schiessl, there is no common connection of the electrodes. In fact, Schiessl teaches away from simulating a one-piece metal by stating "the pairs of electrodes..... are connected to one another via electrical circuits 6.1 to 6.5, which are separate from one another, via measuring instruments 7.1 to 7.5....." (Col. 8, lines 44 - 48).

For the reasons above, Claim 1 is not anticipated by, or obvious from, the teachings of Schiessl. Claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable over Schiessl.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schiessl in view of U.S. Patent 4,158,806 issued to Alexandr M. Kotylev et al. ("Kotylev et al."). Claim 6 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schiessl in view of U.S. Patent 3,924,175 issued to Homer M. Wilson ("Wilson"). Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Schiessl in view of U.S. Patent 4,874,500 issued to Marc J. Madou et al. ("Madou et al.").

For the reasons stated above, Schiessl does not teach or suggest the present invention, and in fact, teaches away. Nor is the present invention obvious from Schiessl. The additional

references do not teach the shortcomings of Schiessl. Thus, Claims 1 and its dependent claims are allowable over the cited patents.

Information Disclosure Statement

Applicants respectfully submit a copy of the non-patent documents submitted in the Information Disclosure Statement and PTO Form 1449 previously filed February 24, 2004. A copy of this Information Disclosure Statement, PTO Form 1449, and a copy of the postcard receipt evidencing receipt by the Patent Office is also being provided for the Examiner's convenience.

Applicants respectfully submit an additional Information Disclosure Statement, PTO Form 1449, cited references, and a check in the amount of \$180.00 for the Information Disclosure fee. Applicants do not believe any additional fees for the Information Disclosure Statement are due at this time, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees to Deposit Account 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Change of Correspondence Address

Applicants respectfully request that all papers pertaining to the above-captioned patent application be directed to Customer No. 31625 and all telephone calls should be directed to Ann C. Livingston at 512.322.2634. Applicants also enclose a Change of Correspondence Address for the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office records.

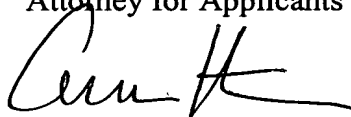
CONCLUSION

Applicants have now made an earnest effort to place this case in condition for allowance in light of the amendments and remarks set forth above. Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of all pending claims as amended.

Applicants enclose a Petition for a Two-Month Extension of Time. Applicants also enclose a check in the amount of \$225.00 for the Extension fee. Applicants believe there are no additional fees due at this time, however, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees necessary or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-2148 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

If there are any matters concerning this Application that may be cleared up in a telephone conversation, please contact Applicants' attorney at 512.322.2634.

Respectfully submitted,
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JUL 08 2005

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PATENT APPLICATION
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APPENDIX